Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 6 MARCH, 1967

SOME THOUGHTS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Meeting for Worship

". . . have you and your Junior High group ever attended a meeting for worship together?" "No, we haven't . . ." "Could you enlist their interest in it?" "I know I could." "Well, then, why not attend meeting together and use whatever happens there as a basis for a new start? React to the meeting—make a flexible plan, keep a simple record, and evaluate it after a few weeks."

I believe that meeting for worship can and should be the matrix of the educational experience of adults and children (within various frameworks.) From this creative center Quakerism springs with its unique and basic ideas and its unrealizable ideals. We are challenged afresh as we return to the mystery of worship and combine worship with the discipline of our business and committee meetings, which press and encourage us to grow, to "become" as our major aim in life.

Personally, I consider a Quaker Meeting the richest and most alluring and challenging environment for learning that I have ever experienced. The beauty and ritual of silence in its many forms is broken by surprising spontaneous revelation. In the wonder of the experience of worship we search for meaning in the inner and outer world, sharing richness of feeling and thought, of ecstasy and anguish. Here we truly do find God within and without as we search and are willing to pursue truth or to deal with conflicts.

"Look at the faces," we can say to the children. "How many of them do you know?"

"Listen—listen to your own inner voice and to others as they speak in meeting."

"Feel—feel the meeting, the rest, and the searching, and the dear, dear people. We are part of it—all of us."

There are key concepts in our Quaker Meetings—Quaker concepts. A cornerstone is the creative use of silence. This is basic to our experience of worship. We practice, we explore its meaning, we pattern it in an orderly way. There is a "way to do" in meeting, and it involves being considerate of others. We learn to enjoy silence and to participate in it. Children can be helped to learn that there are standards and expectations here. Quaker silence is an important part of our understanding of peacemaking and the solution of conflicts. It helps us to relate the intimate and the personal to the problems of the wider world. We prize freedom, balanced with control. The growth of the individual and of the group is directly related. The group evaluates and guides and assists. A process is going on; it is alive and growing. Spontaneity and receptivity, self control and dignity, are values that are nourished.

In meeting, all teach all, including the children. Every meeting is different from every other meeting, yet there is that which is the same. Anna Brinton commented succinctly about children and meeting in our worship fellowship group at 1965 Yearly Meeting. "I know that young Friends don't always want to go to Meeting," she said. "Well, then, why should they go? . . . I found as I grew up that attendance at meeting gave me something to compare other things to. It provided a standard of excellence and goodness and beauty that was recognizable anywhere in the world where I went—and I have been in many parts of the world.

"If you understand this," she added, "you may be willing to go to meeting so that your life will have such a standard. You never can tell where you may find yourself these days. Some things are worth the effort and the discipline. I feel sure that meeting is one of these things. Remember that if some of us do not make the effort to keep the meeting alive—whether we feel like it or not—it will not be there for anyone!"

Good Order

The meeting for worship is, then, basic for all. However, unless the meeting for business and the functioning committees are seen as complementary structures, and unless the responsibilities of the members of the Meeting are gradually understood (including the management of property and paying for things) the silent meeting can be undervalued. Indeed, it can be grossly

(Continued on Page 3)

FRIENDS BULLETIN
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ALICE DART, Editor

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ADVERTISEMENTS: Classified—five cents a word; subject to approval of contents.

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Education: Gerri House, 2247 Garfias Dr., Pasadena, Calif. 91104

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Friends in the Orient: Gretchen Tuthill, 3840 Skyline Rd., Carlsbad, Calif. 92008

Friends Schools: Helen Stevenson, Argenta, B.C., Canada

History: Caroline Estes, 2917 Ashby, Berkeley, Calif. 94705

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New Ways to Bring Friends Together in Meetings: Phillip Wells, 6350 Trelawney Ave., Temple City, Calif. 91780

Nominating: Scott Longenecker, 42 W. Floral Ave., Arcadia, Calif. 91006.

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Permanent Site: Caroline Estes, 2917 Ashby, Berkeley, Calif. 94705

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Social Order: John Ullman, 2222 Felspar, San Diego, Calif. 92109

Visitation: Gretchen Rudnick, 405 Vincente Way, La Jolla, Calif. 92037

1967 YEARLY MEETING
August 13-17, 1967
Claremont Men's College, Claremont, California

FROM THE YEARLY MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TIME AND PLACE: Saturday and Sunday, March 18, 19, 1967, at Palo Alto Meeting House, 957 Colorado Avenue at 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP: All Yearly Meeting Officers except the Reading Clerk; Clerks of regional meetings, Chairmen of all standing committees and Chairman of the Arrangements Committee. Selected officers of the Junior Yearly Meeting, their advisors, and the Clerk of the Pacific Yearly Meeting. Young Friends meet at the same time with an agenda similar to that of the Executive Committee.

AGENDA: Preparation for the Yearly Meeting sessions in 1967 including a tentative time schedule; review of matters which may come from regional meetings and from its committees; consideration of problems within the Yearly Meeting; nomination of new members of the Nominating Committee; recommendations to the Representative Committee. Specific items on the agenda include a report from Ruth Dart Smith who has been asked to develop a three-year Yearly Meeting program for children. Another item will be the appointment of an Assistant Clerk to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Reginald Price. Chairmen must be appointed to the History and the Permanent Site Committees respectively.

HOSPITALITY ARRANGEMENTS:
Helen Currier
1105 Harker Avenue
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301
321-6988, Area Code 415

PLEASE SEND TO THE CLERK: Copies of reports and any other items which should be on the Executive Committee or Yearly Meeting agendas, such as requests for interest groups.

WORLD CONFERENCE VISITORS

Monthly Meetings are asked to name a friend to act as hospitality contact for possible visitors enroute to the World Conference. The contact name should go to the Friends World Committee representative in each area. These are: Hazel Legge, 4025 W. 40th, Vancouver 13, B.C., Canada; Nina Lawrence (for Seattle area) c/o Geology Dept., Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305; Clifford Maser, 215 DeArmond Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97330; Virginia Heck, 2811 Forest Ave., Berkeley, California 94705; Charles Cooper, 250 Cloydon Circle, Santa Barbara, California 93103; or for southern California, Gretchen Tuthill (Friends in the Orient Committee) 3840 Skyline Rd., Carlsbad, California 92008.

DISCIPLINE SHORTAGE

The Yearly Meeting supply of Disciplines is exhausted, and orders keep coming. If Meetings have any extra copies would they send them to the undersigned?

Wanda Underhill
1724 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

SOME THOUGHTS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

misunderstood. Mysticism can lead to unreality if it is not related to responsible caring for one another in the Beloved Community here and now.

Let all the children see and leaf through the Pacific Yearly Meeting **Discipline.** Teach them how to read the word "Discipline" and how to spell it. Let them understand that the **Discipline** was written by Quakers who we know, that it is our guide, and that it may be revised and rewritten as time goes on.

The unique way Quakers use committees, stemming from the meeting for worship, can be a tremendous, creative power in implementing our common life. For our children experiences with delegated responsibilities—i.e. "good order"—are important Quaker learning. In the children's group meetings there should be Quakerly procedures adapted to their age, embodying a simple record, group decisions and a tie with the larger Meeting. In Quaker procedures there are areas of important overlap with the wider world. The committee is a particularly important carrier of culture in contemporary America, and the person who is skilled in group procedures and problem solving processes may, and often does, contribute to groups outside the Friends Meeting in a highly creative way, as a citizen in a democratic country.

Frames

Our programs will deal with people of other nations and other times. They will involve concepts from history, geography, anthropology, literature, art, science and the scientific method. They will be concerned about knowledge of human growth, development and learning. They will be concerned with Quaker life and thought, and with the Bible. Programs will provide time to talk, time for fellowship and enjoyment, and time for activities—"to make and do." We will be building attitudes: curiosity, a sense of wonder, a desire to know, imagination, creativity.

Within these frames will be many aspects.

Belonging—and Being Different

"Are you going to the retreat?" "Sometimes I think that Quakerism is really an upper middle class religion! I'd love the luxury of renewing my soul at the retreat, but my child must have new shoes this month. I simply can't afford it." It shook me up a bit. We like to think of ourselves as 'different.' Are we? If so, how? Which middle class values do we espouse? Are they good values? What can the Meeting do to help our children in their dilemma of wanting to belong and being different?

We live within the American culture which values private property. Most of us Quakers own our own homes and cars — or hope to. We value achievement, initiative and competence in both men and women — husbands who can hold responsible jobs and wives who are disciplined persons, each of whom can complement the other and be individuals still. Many of us have won our influence and right to differ by finding ways to relate to the wider society through various forms of usefulness. Can we find ways of teaching the Meeting children which make this process clear and also make clear to them the many things which we all must do which we do not like to do?

There is a basic growing edge of issues where we must go to communicate with our young people. What do we know about students and the Free Speech movement? . . . about conflict? . . . the new dimensions of peace? . . . about mental hygiene - balancing love, hate, and anger? What about non-violent techniques and the problems of conscientious objectors and their wives and children? . . . planned parenthood and the pill? . . . marriage, divorce, and remarriage? . . . sex conduct and love, before and/or after? What are the basic issues in war, and this war in particular?

How are we dealing with these problems —in our Meetings, in our schools, and the wider communities? Validity in peace-making stems from peace in ourselves and between one another. Patience and pain, resilience of spirit and standing firm are part of peacemaking. Can we speak to each other?

The Family

The family is the basic unit of society. How can we find simplicity and harmony in a world of affluence, a world in disarray? How can one project and imagine possible consequences of one's own behavior? What is morality? Who does what in the family, and who is responsible to whom? Are we expected to be independent adults? What does becoming economically independent involve? Does the family help pay for the Meeting? How **is** the Meeting financed?

The Meeting

The Meeting is our Beloved Community —the matrix of our value system; here we experience life, death and resurrection, and struggle with ideas of power and ways to be honest. We explain: "These are the ways Quakers use. We cooperate here where the issues are clear; in the situation there we

find that we cannot." Tangible projects help immeasurably. "Send John to the vigil in Washington. Young men are needed, and we'll all help pay his way." We experiment over and over and study consequences. Individual efforts and the Meeting group are directly related. Indeed we might say truthfully that only insofar as our children richly experience in many ways the realities of the Beloved Community can this community become truly theirs.

Jesus

"I wonder how he really looked and felt. Was he an ascetic, slender man with a beard as traditionally pictured, or was he more of a man's man—decisive and rugged as he raised issues that sharply differed with most thinking in his day?" . . . "We really know very little of the growing-up period of Jesus' life. We wonder what he would have done if he had hit his thumb with a hammer? Did he ever laugh and joke—or quarrel with his brothers?" He had no wife or children, nor are we told of such daily problems as we face in our families. Perhaps this means that for help with our families, our homes, our projects, and our world we should turn from the daily problems to our inner lives and to one another for help in our meeting for worship.

The Teachers

The children can have the loving concern and careful planning of a thoughtful well-chosen committee which enlists their participation in planning an encompassable program, within which all concerned can find some satisfying relationships, meaning, and comfort. Our programs can offer imagination, flexibility, and innovation. They can offer planning and a willingness to change plans, within which we enlist the help of the children and the whole Meeting. The wider Meeting must be involved in what we do and find it acceptable. Committees whose work logically relates to that of education may well assist us—notably Fellowship, and Ministry and Oversight. We may be able to do some joint planning. Whatever we do, objectives must square with time, space, people, knowledge, and the money available to us.

A bibliography is included in the copy of the speech from which this article is drawn, in mimeographed form—your Meeting may have it.

MOLLY MORGENROTH
Orange Grove Meeting

Some Materials

Creative art and worship are closely related:

A small mirror A prism

A box of small objects for "talking surprises" (sharing time)

Water colors — modeling material — white glue — blunt scissors — chalk — a globe puzzles (furry ones cost 20c at drug stores)

A map or puzzle of the United States (locate Friends, groups in other areas; where did your grandparents come from?)

A map of your city: locate Friends' families with colored pins

THE COST OF SACRIFICE

What is sacrifice? It is relative. The widow's mite was more than all the rich gave — It was her all. Giving one's will is a test; and giving one's life for a friend — or a foe — is the cardinal sacrifice. The soldier may do this when he goes into the "service" — he obeys without question, even when he knows he is going into the jaws of death.

Our Lord gave himself as a willing sacrifice that He might show the Father's love and forgiveness for all mankind. He said that those who tried to save their lives would lose, but those who gave would save (or redeem) their natural lives for eternity.

The Buddhist monks were a living sacrifice, as was Norman Morrison, given willingly in the cause of peace, and are examples of loving the "enemy" — willing to suffer with him. How effective this may be, no one this side of eternity can judge. What is my sacrifice costing me?

SAMUEL COOPER
Campe Verde, Arizona

QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Fourteen young Friends now in 11th or 12th grade have been selected to go to England this summer on the Pilgrimage. From July 15 to 29 they will be based in Lancaster and will follow a schedule of visits to historic Quaker places in northwest England. Information about the early Quaker movement will be provided by British Friends who have an intimate knowledge of that area, including James and Joyce Drummond who visited widely among Friends in America last summer. A two-weeks work camp, possibly in northern Germany, will follow. The group will return to New York by air on August 18.

Fourteen European young Friends of similar age will join the Americans at Lancaster. Wilbert and Nina Braxton are the American leaders and will be with the group throughout the Pilgrimage. Wilbert Braxton is Assistant Headmaster of William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia and a former principal of Friends Boarding School, Barnesville, Ohio.

Among the American Pilgrims are three from Pacific Yearly Meeting:

Leyton Jump, Multnomah Meeting
Alan Rumsey, Portland Friends Worship Group
Ann Thiermann, Palo Alto Meeting

To the Editor:

I have just returned home from a three day visit to Argenta Friends School. My daughter Cathy is attending there this year. I was enjoying my daughter very much at home before she convinced me that this was a creative place for her to go to school. After being there I am now sure that she is having a very rare and invaluable experience.

I realize that grades are important; at Argenta they make the students feel just enough uncomfortable that they are pushed to achieve yet still remain relaxed enough to feel that this is not the only thing. I marvel at the delicate balance they seem to be keeping. I am hopeful that the necessary work will be done to keep grades up, but even if it were not I think that what they are doing there is very exciting and that my daughter is having a much richer experience than she could find in any public school anywhere.

Words seem to fail me in expressing my deep feelings about the school. I would like very much for others to know something of what is happening there and what is being done not only for my daughter but the world by sending these young people on as responsible ambassadors of goodwill.

At best we all seem to do so little in terms of our aspirations. I am sure those at Argenta School feel this gap more keenly than most people. Real achievement is never very obvious among the grass roots. Our failures stick out to threaten us in keenly felt ways. It takes a strong person to overcome obvious failures with confidence that the quiet things are more important. I fight this problem continuously myself. And I keep feeling that it is the quiet things that really count. The world will not be saved by one big movement but by individuals who care about other individuals.

ESTHER LEINBACH
Eugene Meeting

Dear Friends,

The **Friends Retirement Association** is facing a crisis. Although we were able to pay the first installment of our property tax by using all of our savings, we shall be short an estimated $1400 to meet the 2nd installment, due on April 1. Total property tax this year is $5600 — over $1600 more than last year.

You may be aware that we entered upon this project on the assumption that, as a non-profit charitable organization, we should not have to pay property taxes. The Housing and Home Finance Agency, which granted us the loan for construction, had also assumed our automatic exemption from taxes for the Center.

It is not a question of bad management: the Center is fully rented according to the rental schedule approved by the HHFA. There is no hope of our receiving tax exemption in 1967, although our Finance Chairman is working hard on it for 1968.

Because we are optimistic about future tax relief and believe we are rendering a significant service in providing low-cost housing to those who need it, we want to continue the Quaker Retirement Center under our management.

So we must again seek help. We estimate that $10 from those who can give it will solve our problem, for the present. Perhaps some of you can give more, if you believe, with us, that it is important to keep the Quaker Retirement Center in operation.

ELOISE F. HEWITT
Quaker Retirement Center
2691 Lincoln Avenue
Altadena, California 91002

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

STEVER—On December 4, to Bob and Ann Stever (University), a son, Jonathan Crockett.

MAGRUDER—On December 8, to Joe and Joanne Magruder (Whitleaf), a daughter, Marie Elizabeth.

POLSTER—To Lou and Mary Leigh Polster (San Fernando), an adopted daughter.

MUKENSNABLE—On January 2, to Allan and Judith Mukensnable (N. County Worship Group), a son, Scott Edward.

Marriages

SATTERTHWAITE-STOUT—On December 31, under the care of Whitleaf Meting, Carol Stout, daughter of Osmyn and Marjorie Stout (Whitleaf), and Mark Satterthwaite, son of Franklin and Ruth Satterthwaite (Wellesley Meeting, Mass.).

SPENNER-ANDERSON—In January, Julie Anderson (Santa Barbara) and Charles Spenner.

Death

PAULSEN—San Francisco Meeting lost a beloved and faithful member in the sudden death of Irene Paulsen on November 16, 1966.

NEWS OF FRIENDS

Young Friends of Whitleaf Meeting are widely scattered. BILL BRUFF JR. is finishing at Antioch College; JUDY BRUFF is a freshman at Pitzer College; JEAN EBERSOLE is attending Santa Barbara City College; CARLE HADLEY is a freshman at San Diego State College; DICK MATHES attends Cal State at Los Angeles; LAUREL THOMAS is at UCLA. JIM COPE is doing alternative service with VISTA at Williamsburg, Ky.

JACK AND CAROL URNER are living in Rome. Jack directs an urban and regional planning project in Libya; he has an international staff of thirty. He is spending perhaps a quarter of his time in Libya—recently deep into the Sahara desert where he ate his first camel meat, interviewed deert sheiks, visited remote oases settlements. Carol is enjoying a well earned vacation; Kirby and Julie are in school. They were all in Florence and were marooned three days in their Medici palace hotel by the flood.

TESS HELBURN and GORDON WARRINGTON (both Bozeman Allowed) joined in December with other concerned people from all over Montana to inaugurate the new Montana Program Committee of the AFSC. More than most Western Friends "they have learned how to live with distance."

FROM THE MEETINGS

LOS ANGELES MEETING has resumed the informal Friday night Worship Fellowship group with no prearranged topic, at 7:30 in the meeting house.

PIMA MEETING has acquired a meeting house near the campus of the University of Arizona. It was an older house which they have remodeled.

UNIVERSITY MEETING has a Women's Fellowship Group which has met since 1951 on the first Wednesday of the month for work, lunch and fellowship. All are invited to come at 11:00 a.m., help with whatever housekeeping chores are to be done. Each

WANTED: One or two persons with Friendly interests to rent Quaker House, 2153 Vine St., Berkeley, CA 94709, during summer of 1967. House fully equipped and furnished. Write Ralph Powell at the above address. — Adv.

brings her own lunch; coffee and tea are provided. After lunch there is a short business meeting, then a study-discussion of Quaker concerns or topics.

Last summer I visited ARGENTA MEETING. The meeting house was designed and built by the members of local logs, lumber, and stone. It projects out over the lake with an inspiring view through three glass sides. The beautiful fireplace must be cheerful in the winter time. At meeting for worship were children, two elderly mothers, and many visiting attenders. Many people come to see what has been created at Argenta. While I was there two families, totalling ten people, were camping by the lake. Another with borrowed children totalling nine was staying with the Conrows. The children picked cherries. The adults helped with making meatballs to freeze and putting fruit in jars to can. This was accompanied by conversation regarding dreams, and aspirations and some of the results of their community efforts. Argenta is a summer seminar on goals and directions.

BETTY PARKER
Visitation Committee

On December 3 and 4 the Miles family visited VICTORIA MEETING. They arranged a potluck supper for us to get acquainted informally, and they made a particular effort to have some young people there so our children would not feel strange. After supper we had a discussion. Of particular interest was the matter of the immigration of young men to avoid the draft in the U.S.

The feeling of fellowship of this evening was carried over to our worship together the following morning. It was a special privilege to share this meeting for worship, because it was in effect a memorial for Stanley Harris who had died a few days before and was a valued member of the Meeting.

At the business meeting following we were much interested in the discussion of finding suitable persons to fill committee posts, ways of implementing social concerns, the problems of keeping in contact with absent members. It sounded so familiar and yet was different.

Where our Meeting (University) gives a feeling of newness and growth, Victoria imparts a sense of continuity and tradition. Both aspects are needed in our Monthly Meetings and in our Quarterly Meeting. We urged Victoria Friends to visit our Meeting. We would also encourage University Friends to visit Victoria. It is not easy for them to offer overnight hospitality, but reasonable accommodations are easy to find. It helps a Meeting to see some new and friendly faces. It also helps the visitor to get a new perspective on his own Meeting.

ALICE MILES
Visitation Committee

FROM THE SCHOOLS

The PACIFIC ACKWORTH FOUNDATION has recently been established by the School and Pacific Ackworth Friends Meeting, growing out of the felt need for structure to provide continuity for the community and to undergird the original dream of founders and participants "to encourage educational work and experiment . . . with the highest concern . . . and integrity of the individual as envisioned by the broader aspects of the religious, educational and social testimonies of the Society of Friends." The development has come with care and nurture by Southern California Quarterly Meeting which has approved formation of a standing committee to continue at the School's desire this relationship with the Society of Friends. The School is at present considering thoughtfully questions compiled by the Quarterly and Monthly Meeting committees into areas of the school's life and structure such as finances, professional standards, curriculum, admission procedures and the use of parent help.

FROM ALL QUARTERS

"Deepening Our Human Relationships," was the topic of a seminar sponsored by the Ministry and Counsel of PNW QUARTERLY MEETING. It ran from Friday evening, February 24 through Saturday evening of the 25th, in University Meeting House in Seattle and was open to all Friends and attenders of Friends Meetings.

* * *

U THANT, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will speak at the special public session July 30 of the Fourth World Conference of Friends in Greenboro, N.C.

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